

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/710,441
Response filed June 7, 2005
Reply to OA dated March 9, 2005

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim 2 has been amended in order to more particularly point out, and distinctly claim the subject matter to which the applicant regards as his invention. It is believed that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated March 9, 2005.

Claims 1 - 3 have been objected to by the Examiner due to certain minor informalities. The applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of these objections.

As noted above, claim 1 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Thus, the outstanding objection to claim 1 is now moot. As to claim 2, as indicated above claim 2 has been amended in order to more particularly point out, and distinctly claim the subject matter to which the applicant regards as his invention, and in order to correct certain informalities, including those noted by the Examiner.

Accordingly, the withdrawal of the outstanding objections to the claims is in order, and is therefore respectfully solicited.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/710,441
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As to the merits of this case, the following rejections are set forth in the outstanding Action:

(1) claims 1 - 3 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Crochetierre (U.S. Patent No. 5,093,684); and

(2) claims 1 - 3 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) based on Crochetierre in view of Beggiao (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0106207).

The applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of these rejections.

As indicated above, independent claim 1 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Thus, the outstanding rejections of claim 1 is now moot.

As to independent claim 2, the applicant's claimed invention, as set forth in claim 2, is directed to an image printing system for forming images continuously on a long photosensitive material. The claimed image printing system includes inputting means for reserving by an order whether to cut the photosensitive material or not; storing means for memorizing a reserved order for which the reservation for cutting has been made via the inputting means; and cutting means for cutting at a point on the photosensitive material behind a place where image formation for the reserved order is complete.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/710,441
Response filed June 7, 2005
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A significant structural arrangement of the applicant's claimed image printing system, as now set forth in claim 2, includes the claimed inputting means for reserving by an order whether to cut the photosensitive material or not.

Crochetierre is concerned with a packaging system for associating prints with corresponding films so as to place the film and prints into an original order bag for return to a customer. However, contrary to the teachings of the applicant's claimed invention, Crochetierre does not disclose or suggest the claimed "inputting means for reserving by an order whether to cut the photosensitive material or not."

As such, not all of the claimed elements, as set forth in claim 2, are found in exactly the same situation and united in the same way to perform the identical function in Crochetierre apparatus. Thus, there can be no anticipation of the applicant's claimed invention, as now set forth in claim 2, based on the teachings of the Crochetierre patent.

As to the cited secondary reference, Beggiao, such reference is concerned with a technique in which there are no prints of another customer order between prints of a particular customer order on a web. As in Crochetierre, Beggiao does not disclose or suggest the claimed "inputting means

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/710,441
Response filed June 7, 2005
Reply to OA dated March 9, 2005

for reserving by an order whether to cut the photosensitive material or not.”

Accordingly, even if, *arguendo*, the teachings of the cited references can be combined in the manner suggested by the Examiner, such combined teachings would still fall far short in fully meeting the applicants’ claimed invention, as now set forth in claim 2. Thus, a person of ordinary skill in the art would not have found the applicant’s claimed invention obvious based on the teachings of the cited prior art references, singly or in combination.

Moreover, claim 3 depends on claim 2, and further limits the scope of claim 2. Thus, at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 2, claim 3 should now be similarly allowable.

In view of the above, the withdrawal of the outstanding rejections under 35 USC §102(b) based on Crochetierre (U.S. Patent No. 5,093,684), and under 35 USC §103(a) based on Crochetierre in view of Beggiao (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0106207) is in order, and is therefore respectfully solicited.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

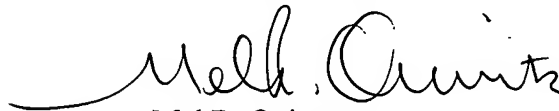
U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/710,441
Response filed June 7, 2005
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If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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